

Message Text

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DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF

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TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO AND PORTUGAL

REF: AMEMBASSY PARIS 7135

1. SUMMARY. IN ADDITION TO SUBJECTS REPORTED IN REFTL (ILO AND ROLE OF PORTUGUESE LABOR MINISTRY IN INTERNAL EVOLUTION), IRVING BROWN ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS AFL-CIO MIGHT ASSIST DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL DURING MARCH 6 MEETING WITH PORTUGUESE LABOR MINISTER ROSA. END SUMMARY.

2. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REP IRVING BROWN TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT HE MET WITH PORTUGUESE LABOR MINISTER JOAO PEDRO TOMAS ROSA AT RESIDENCE PORTUGUESE OECD PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOLLOWING MARCH 4-5 OECD LABOR MINISTERIAL. MEETING RESULTED FROM BROWN INITIATIVE AND ARRANGED THROUGH PORTUGUESE OECD PERMANENT DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO BROWN, ROSA EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM FOR IDEA OF AFL-CIO COLLABORATION WITH DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS PORTUGAL'S LABOR MOVEMENT TO HELP

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WREST COMMUNIST CONTROL FROM PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. ROSA INVITED BROWN TO VISIT PORTUGAL TO MAKE CONTACTS AND ASSESS SITUATION FIRST-HAND. BROWN TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT ROSA SAID "YOU ARE WELL-KNOWN IN PORTUGAL, BUT THAT'S NO PROBLEM". BROWN, HOWEVER, DID SEE A PROBLEM AT THIS JUNCTURE AND SUGGESTED THAT MIKE BOGGS FROM AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS SHOULD VISIT PORTUGAL FIRST. ROSA ALSO SUGGESTED LARGE-SCALE LABOR LEADER TRAINING IN THE US. BROWN DISCOUNTED EFFECTIVENESS THIS APPROACH BECAUSE OF HIGH COSTS INVOLVED AND INABILITY OF PORTUGUESE TO RELATE SCOPE AND SCALE OF US TRADE UNION SCENE TO PORTUGUESE SITUATION. THUS BROWN PROPOSED IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAMS WHICH THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS COULD SUPPORT WITH FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES: POSTAL, TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL (PTTI), INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL CLERICAL & TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES (FIET) AND THE INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS (IMF). BROWN TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE HOPES BOGGS WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT PORTUGAL "SOON" AS PART OF LARGER EUROPEAN ORIENTATION TRIP.

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